

Form 10-390  
(Rev. 5-72)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Maryland
COUNTY:	Prince George's
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

## 1. NAME

COMMON:

Ammendale Normal Institute

AND/OR HISTORIC:

Ammendale Normal Institute

## 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

West side of Washington Blvd. (Rt. 1) South of Ammendale Road

CITY OR TOWN:

Beltsville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

Fifth

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

COUNTY:

Prince George's

CODE

033

## 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied	Yes:
<input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Bath	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
			<input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<u>bldg. not</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious	<u>summer camp</u>	<u>used as school;</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		<u>storage and camp</u>
				<u>main uses.</u>

## 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

The Christian Brothers (Brother Albert, Director)

STREET AND NUMBER:

Ammendale Normal Institute--Washington Blvd.

CITY OR TOWN:

Beltsville

STATE:

Maryland

CODE

24

## 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Prince George's County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Upper Marlboro

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

## 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

None

DATE OF SURVEY:

☐ Federal☐ State☐ County☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

ENTRY NUMBER

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATE

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Ammendale Normal Institute is a Victorian structure of an eclectic character, with design influences from the Queen Anne, Italianate, and Second Empire Revival schools of architecture. The two story brick building sits on a high stone foundation; the roof is a mansard, pierced with dormer windows and gables.

The main (east) facade is over 100 feet long, consisting of a main block with projecting wings; the main block was completed in 1884 and the wings were added four years later. The wings continue the style of the main block. A 90 foot long chapel wing extends from the rear (west) facade and terminates in a semi-octagonal apse; like the main block, the chapel has a high stone foundation, but it has an A roof in contrast to the mansard

The main entrance is marked by a gabled entrance porch with a segmentally-arched entryway and patterned brickwork in the gable. Behind the porch, a four story tower projects above the roofline. The tower has a bracketed cornice that carries an ironwork balcony; above the cornice is a framed bell cote with a steeply-pitched, dormered hipped roof. The third story window head repeats the segmental arch of the porch entryway; the fourth story elevation has a niche for a Madonna and Child statue.

Flanking the tower are two gables. Their surface treatment repeats the brickwork pattern of the entrance porch. They break through the main roof cornice and thus repeat the vertical emphasis of the tower.

Between the entrance porch and each of the wings is a two-story gallery. It is supported by a row of iron columns with decorative bracketing; the railings are of patterned ironwork.

The wings both have central gables with patterned brickwork. The central, gabled portion of the wall surface projects forward slightly, and windows are grouped to give emphasis to the central section of each wing.

The window heads are segmentally arched, with the arches projecting slightly from the wall surface and connected by string courses. The entryway arch is formed of moulded brick, as are the balustrades of the steps to the porch. Both the dormer windows and the iron columns use a star motif; the star is the symbol of the Christian Brothers.

The interior of the building has been altered in order to meet demands for space as the needs of classroom have changed.

St. Joseph's Church stands southeast of the school and is separated from it by a hedge. In general form, the building is a small, brick typical of the late nineteenth century. The sidewalls have pointed arched windows, separated by small brick buttresses, glazed with double hung sash. The low entry porch is at the center of the main facade; the double doors topped by the transom light.

The detailing of the church, however, is as eclectic as that of the main building. In the center of the gable there is

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 2. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) Church: 1880; School: 1883-4 and 1888

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal☒ Education☐ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☒ Religion/Phi-☐ Other (Specify)☐ Historic☐ Industry

lasophy

☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Science☒ Architecture☐ Landscape☐ Sculpture☐ Art

Architecture

☐ Social/Human-☐ Commerce☐ Literature

itarian

☐ Communications☐ Military☐ Theater☐ Conservation☐ Music☐ Transportation

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ammendale Normal Institute has been the home of the Christian Brothers since 1880, when they moved their novitiate from Calvert Hall in Baltimore to a rural site. Admiral Daniel Ammen, U.S.N., owned land along the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad near Beltsville and offered the order twenty acres at \$20 per acre. Brother Tobias, Director of St. John's College in Washington, D.C., accepted the offer and immediately began building.

The first novitiate, completed in November 1880, was a 40 foot by 50 foot, three-story building. In addition to selling twenty acres, Admiral Ammen donated five acres of land for a church with the stipulation that the church and the school always be separated by a hedge; the hedge is still standing. In October 1880, St. Joseph's Church was dedicated. The structure was built in a style seldom seen in Prince George's County, where there are no other examples of Queen Anne patternwork in brick and few buildings that show an awareness of late nineteenth century eclecticism. The general style of the chapel set the pattern for the rebuilding of the novitiate begun in 1883.

For the novitiate, the Christian Brothers contracted with a Baltimore builder named McCusker. The first stage of construction was the center section and chapel, which took about a year to build and cost \$33,000. The workmen were evidently not local, since they boarded at the school during the construction. In December, 1884, James Cardinal Gibbons, Archbishop of Baltimore, dedicated the building.

In 1888, the flanking wings were added and the building took on its present appearance. Since the wings are in the same style as the main block, the building has a unified appearance and character. It was one of the largest--perhaps the largest--building in Prince George's County at the time and enabled the Brothers to carry on several schools in a single structure.

Before the construction of Ammendale Normal Institute, Mme. La Coste, Admiral Ammen's mother-in-law, had conducted a local school at Drury Mansion. After the new institution was completed, the Brothers assumed responsibility for the education of local children as well as their own clergy and teachers, with Brother Victor running the lay school. Clerical training at

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #1

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Prince George's	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Ammendale Normal Institute

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

a circular window set in a panel formed by a pointed arch. At the eaves, bargeboards are supported on their lower end by brackets which, in turn, rest on a lower belt course. The entrance porch has similarly-carved work in the gable and the lower end of the rafters is supported on brackets. Along the sidewalls, the rafter ends are cut in an ogee shape.

8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued

the Institute included a juniorate for younger boys, a novitiate, and a scholasticate where Brothers received college training.

Over the years, the Christian Brothers added neighboring lands to their holdings, which today total about 400 acres. Thus, they were assured the quiet and peaceful environment associated with a religious life. But with a station on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad at the Ammendale post village, they were not isolated from the secular world.

Admiral Ammen, the original owner of the land and donor of the church site, was a convert to Catholicism. Although a naval officer he seems to have had both an interest in education and a wide-ranging curiosity about the world. He accompanied the Wilke exploration of the Mediterranean Sea and a scientific expedition to the Paraguan River; during the Civil War he participated in several battles along the blockaded southern coast of the Atlantic; and he was an ardent and articulate advocate of the American Isthmian Canal (about which he wrote five books). He wrote one book on the history of the naval involvement in the Civil War as well as one advocating naval reform and modernization. Country Homes and Their Improvement described the advantages of country living but warned that the popular desire for rural life might not suit everyone's taste. But after his initial involvement in the establishment of Ammendale Normal Institute, Admiral Ammen seems to have had little involvement in its activities and his reasons for urging it along remain unknown.

Architecturally, the Normal Institute is an outstanding example of the eclectic styles of the 1880's. This building, constructed in a rural environment, shows an awareness of stylistic trends of the period. The presence of a structure of this quality, style, or scale is unusual in Maryland outside the urban centers of Baltimore and Washington.

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ammen, Admiral Daniel. The Navy in the Civil War. 1885  
Country Homes and Their Improvement. 1885  
The Atlantic Coast. 1885  
American Isthmian Canal Routes. 1889.  
The Old Navy and the New. 1891.  
The Errors and Fallacies of the Inter-Oceanic Transit Question. 1886.  
 Brother Clementius. The History of the District of Baltimore.  
 Ammendale: 1948.

(See continuation sheet No. 2)

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	39° 03' 16"	76° 54' 22"			
NE	39° 03' 14"	76° 54' 01"			
SE	39° 02' 56"	76° 53' 46"			
SW	39° 03' 03"	76° 54' 16"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 79 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Christopher Owens, Historian; Catherine Pierce, Researcher

ORGANIZATION

Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Comm.

DATE

26 April 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:

8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:

Silver Spring

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

## 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

## NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Name

Arthur C. Townsend

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date October 24, 1974

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #2

PG: 60-4

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Prince George's	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Ammendale Normal Institute

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY, continued

Land Records of Prince George's County.  
Miscellaneous papers of Ammendale Normal Institute.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITES SUMMARY SHEET

P.G. County Survey # 60-4 Date 1880's  
Building Name Ammendale Normal Institute  
Location West of Washington Blvd. (Rt. 1) South of Ammendale Rd.  
Open to Public X yes      no Restricted

THE AMMENDALE NORMAL INSTITUTE is an outstanding example of the eclectic styles of the 1880's and is of unusual quality, size, and scale for rural Maryland. It has been the home of the Christian Brothers since 1880, when they moved their novitiate from Calvert Hall in Baltimore to a rural site. Admiral Daniel Ammen, U.S.N., a convert to Catholicism, sold the order twenty acres and donated five acres of land for a neighboring church with the stipulation that the church and school always be separated by a hedge. The present structure was completed in 1888 and was one of the largest--if not the largest-- building in Prince George's County at the time, enabling the Brothers to carry on several schools in a single structure.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET  
NOMINATION FORM  
for the  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME					
COMMON:					
AND/OR HISTORIC:					
Amundale Normal Institute					
2. LOCATION					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
Washington Blvd.					
CITY OR TOWN:					
Beltsville					
STATE			COUNTY:		
Md.			Prince George's		
3. CLASSIFICATION					
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment		<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum		<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	
				<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY					
OWNER'S NAME:					
Christian Brothers					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
Washington Blvd.					
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:		
Beltsville			Md.		
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION					
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:					
Prince George's County Courthouse					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:		
Upper Marlboro			Md.		
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):					
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS					
TITLE OF SURVEY:					
None					
DATE OF SURVEY:					
<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local					
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:		



7. DESCRIPTION						
CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE						
<p>The building is a large red brick structure of the late Victorian period set on a stone foundation. The style is Queen Anne, with French Second Empire and Italianate influences, particularly in the bracketing of the tower cornice and the mansard roof. In the rear, stair towers between the pavillions and main structure have ogee-shaped roofs. Across the main facade is a two story porch with iron columns and decorative brackets. The porch runs between the two end pavillions, with their center gables. The connecting wing has a central tower and gables mid-way between the tower and pavillions. On the gables and tower are Queen Anne Style decorative motifs in brick. The tower has an iron railing above the wide cornice and a cupola with pedimented hipped-roof. Star decorative motifs are used in both the columns and wooden dormer window surrounds. Front staircase has parapets of molded brick in segmental arch and modillioned forms. Windows and doorway arches are segmental.</p> <p>A chapel in a Queen Anne style has bracked barge-boards and a bracketed porch. The pointed-arched gable panel enframes a circular window. The nave windows are pointed arches. The rafter ends are cut in decorative patterns. Buttresses are set at an angle at the corners and between each window along the nave walls.</p>						

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>8. SIGNIFICANCE</b>			
<b>PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Colonial	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	
<b>SPECIFIC DATES: (If Applicable and Known)</b>			
<b>AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<b>STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE</b>			

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 9. SURVEILLANCE REFERENCE

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0			0			0		
NE	0			0			0		
SE	0			0			0		
SW	0			0			0		

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY:

NAME AND TITLE:

Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION:

M-NCPFC

DATE:

1/25/73

STREET AND NUMBER:

8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:

Silver Spring

STATE:

Md.

## 12.

State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Mathilde Ammen	Ammendale Normal Institute
Ulysses Grant Ammen	
21/459	Feb. 4, 1905
Eva Ammen, Executrix, Trustee	(March 1, 1905)
(under will of father Daniel)	
Eva Ammen (in own right)	21.79A
Caroline Ammen	
Francis Dupont Ammen (all unmarried)	

-beginning at the intersection of the western boundary line of the B & O RR with...the county road...  
(with buildings)

Francis D. Ammen	Ammendale Normal Institute
34/13	June 6, 1904
	(Feb. 14, 1906)
	5,810 sq. ft.

-beginning at a corner stone on the county road between the Washington/Baltimore Turnpike and Ammendale Station on the B & O RR. Being the SE corner stone of a lot or parcel of ground conveyed by D. Ammen to James French. JWB 3/566.

Eva Ammen, Trustee and Executrix	Ammendale Normal Institute
Matilda Ammen	
Ulysses G. Ammen	Aug. 27, 1907
Francis Dupont Ammen	(June 2, 1908)
42/584	37.24A

-beginning...at a stone the northernmost point of this tract, a boundary of the Hoban tract and a boundary of the Ammendale Normal Institute.  
(with buildings)

Chris Owens  
1974

THE AMMENDALE NORMAL INSTITUTE

The Ammendale Normal Institute has been the home of the Christian Brothers since 1880 when they moved their novitate from Calvert Hall in Baltimore to a rural site. Admiral Daniel Ammen, U.S. Navy, owned land along the Baltimore and Ohio RR near Beltsville and offered twenty acres at \$20.00 per acre. Brother Tobias, the Director of St. John's College in Washington, D.C., accepted and immediately began building.

The first novitate, completed in November, 1880, was a 40 ft. by 50 ft., three story building. Admiral Ammen also donated five acres for a church, completed and dedicated in October, 1880. He stipulated that the church and school had to be separated by a hedge, which still stands.

In 1883, the brothers contracted with a Baltimore builder named McCusker to erect the present building for \$33,000. The building was dedicated in December, 1884, by Cardinal Gibbons, Archbishop of Baltimore, was 100 ft. long and 50 ft. wide, with a 90 ft. chapel extending from the rear facade. The Brother's records indicate their satisfaction with the builder. By 1888, the wings had been added and the building took on its present appearance.

Before the construction of Ammendale Normal Institute, Mde. la Coste, Admiral Ammen's mother-in-law, had maintained a local school at her Drury Mansion. After their school was completed, the Brothers assumed responsibility for the education of local children as well as their own clergy, with Brother Victor running the lay school. Clerical training at the Institute included a juniorate for younger boys preparing for the novitate, a novitate, and a scholasticate where brothers received college training.

Over the years, the Christian Brothers added neighboring lands to their holdings, today totalling 400 acres. Thus they were assured the quiet and peaceful environment associated with a religious life. But with a station on the Baltimore and Ohio RR at the Ammendale post village, they were not isolated from the secular world.

Admiral Ammen, the original owner of the land and donor of the chapel site, was a convert to Catholicism. Born in 1820, he joined the navy in 1835 as a midshipman. His career reflects his varied interests. He accompanied the Wilke exploration of the Mediterranean Sea and a scientific expedition to the Paraguayan River. During the Civil War he commanded the Seneca of the South

Ammen, Daniel. Country Homes and Their Improvement. (Washington, D.C.): Joseph Shillington, 1885.

"Country Homes and Who Should Have Them"

Advantages:

- cheaper than yearly resort tour
- chances for exercise afforded
- for persons of moderate means, country home possible if near railway.

Reasons for moving to country:

- not if find routine weary or if moved by love of nature; not for persons who don't like physical exertion or who like fashion and finery.
- for persons who enjoy activity, dislike ceremony.
- location-spring or brook desirable; trees necessary; convenience to transportation.
- freedom from covetness, pridefulness
- vanity among rural dwellers, freedom of action, personal control of children, good air and food, true and honest life.

"The Improvement of a Country Home"

- growth of cities and higher disease, railroads, growth of cities.
- building a house-choosing a contractor, etc.
- need for a pond
- trees and landscape.

("The writer is indebted to Mr. John Saul, nursery man, of Washington, for success in transplanting the holly." (p. 32)

(in picking fruit, old Arctic Shoes prevent slipping from limbs and injury to tree-author's accidental discovery.)

- gardening, good und rdrainage-important and enriches ground; composting.

roads and walks-gravel recommended

ice house near pond-recommend 18x30x16 ft. deep partition and loft for stowing implements need for a dog.

"We will end in plain Anglo-Saxon with what Cicero said so long ago: Nothing is better than agriculture, nothing more productive, nothing sweeter, nothing more worthy of a free man. And these advantages pertain as well to the dweller in his country home as to the farmer, pure and simple." (p. 44)

Atlantic blockade in the attack on Port Royal and participated in two attacks on Ft. Fisher. He was also an articulate advocate of an American Isthmian Canal, writing fove books on the subject, and serving as U.S. delegate to the 1879 Paris Inter-Oceanic Ship Canal Congress. He was an advocate of naval reform and modernization, writing THE OLD NAVY AND THE NEW, as well as an historian of the navy's role in the Civil War (THE NAVY AND THE CIVIL WAR; A SKETCH OF OUR SECOND BOMBARDMENT OF FORT FISHER.) While he was an advocate of country life, he was evidently concerned that the interest in country home and life popularized by late nineteenth century magazines and real estate agents had misled people about its real difficulties. His 1885 book, COUNTRY HOMES AND THEIR IMPROVEMENT, included a chapter "Country Homes and Who Should Have Them."

One can only speculate on the reasons Daniel Ammen encouraged the Christian Brothers to settle on his lands. In part, it was probably his desire to serve his new-found faith. Also, his interest in both reform and the salubrious effects of country life would suggest that he felt education would be more effective in a rural atmosphere. And his own intellectual curiosity and wide-ranging interests would make the support of an educational institution a natural outlet for his charity.

-Christopher Owens.

AMMENDALE NORMAL INSTITUTE-LAND DEEDS

Daniel Ammen  
Indenture  
JWB 3/566

James French  
July 31, 1884  
(Aug. 19, 1884)  
19,129.3 sq. ft.

Beginning at a tile drain on W. side of the County Rd.  
leading from Baltimore/Washington Turnpike to Ammendale Way  
Station on the B & O RR.

Daniel Ammen  
Indenture  
JWB 14/91

John Howard  
Thomas Meade  
Henry Wall  
Francis Fitzpatrick  
Patrick Brennan  
Pierre Marceux  
TRUSTEES for Ammendale Institute  
May 27, 1849  
(Feb. 7, 1890)  
11.3A

Part of tract conveyed by Wm. L. Drury, Trustee, to D.  
Ammen-April 5, 1874. RSW 1/138 (included Drury House)

Daniel Ammen  
JWB 38/750

Ammendale Normal Institute  
Dec. 8, 1896  
(Dec. 15, 1896)  
1) 41,782 sq. ft.  
2) 2,464 sq. ft.

1) part of same land obtained from Wm. L. Drury, Trustee. Tues.  
April 5, 1874 RSW 1/138.  
-adjacent to lot of Carrie Ammen.

2) small triangular tract together with the buildings.

Carrie Ammen, spinster  
JWB 38/749

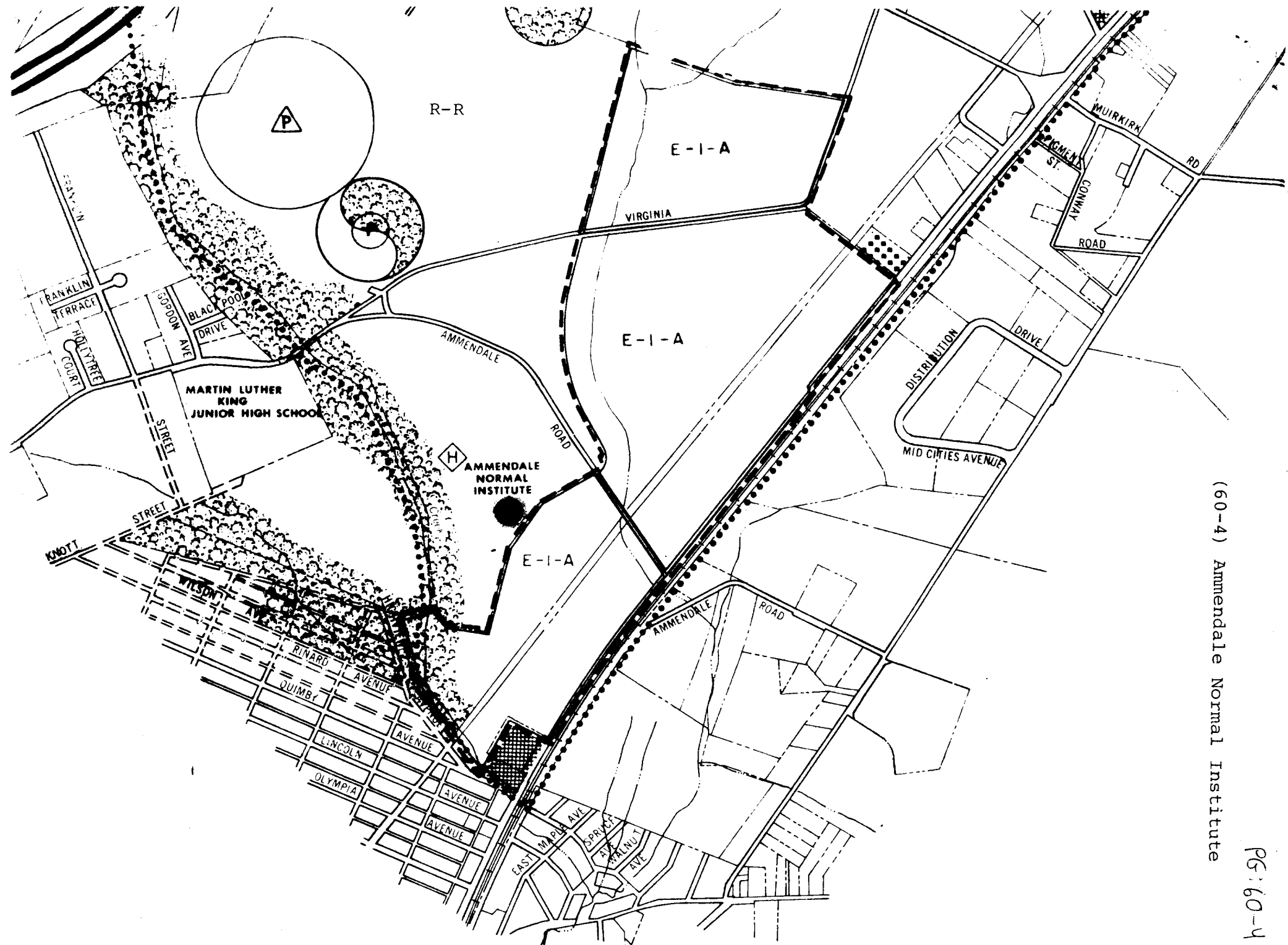
Ammendale Normal Institute  
Dec. 8, 1896  
(Dec. 15, 1896)  
5,372 sq. ft.

-part of same land obtained from Daniel Ammen-July 14, 1888.  
JW 10/247



PUBLICATIONS BY DANIEL AMMEN:

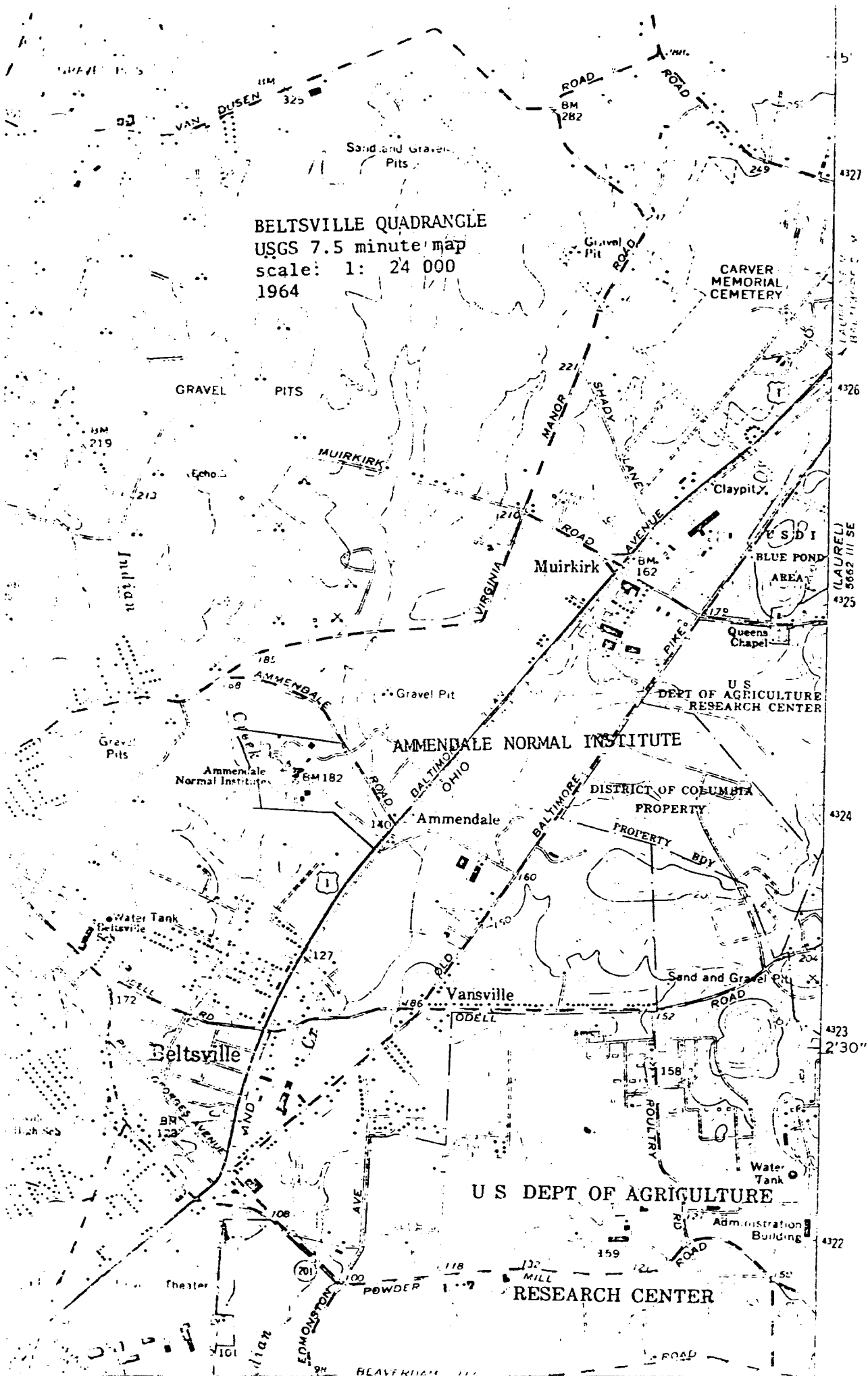
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